

Hi, I'm
Harriet.



TALKING HISTORY

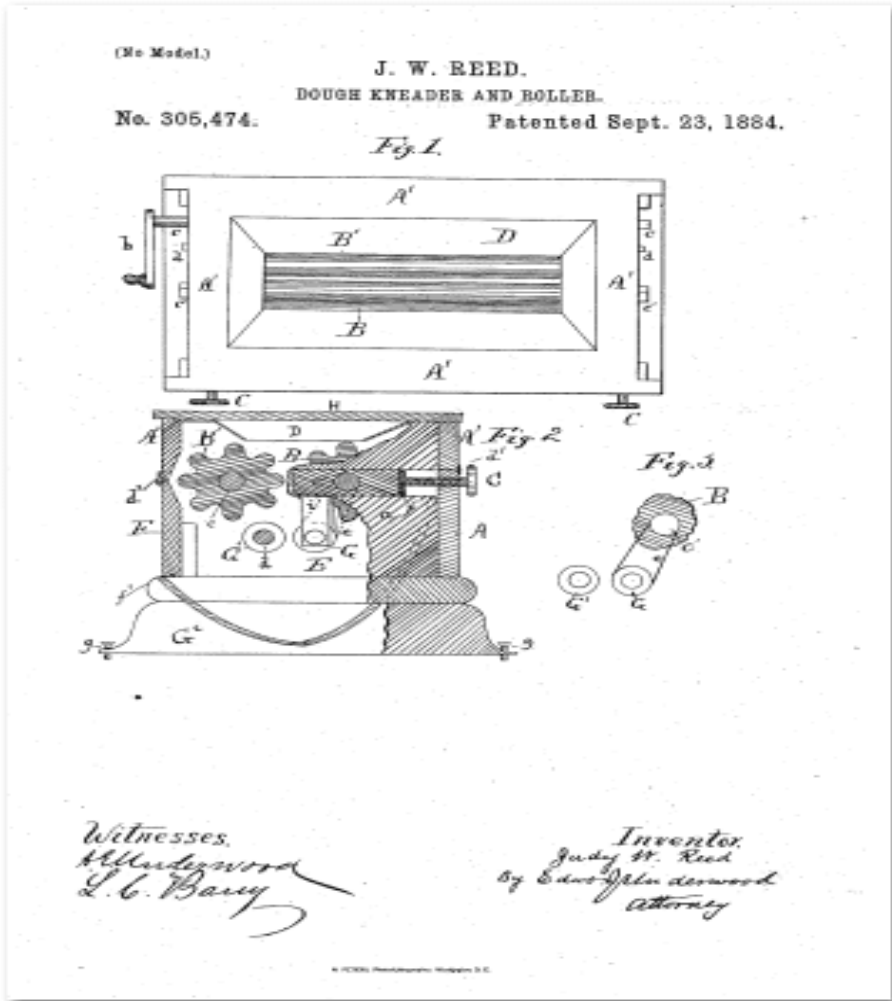
with

Harriet & Roxanne™

**Black Women Inventors
of the 19th Century**

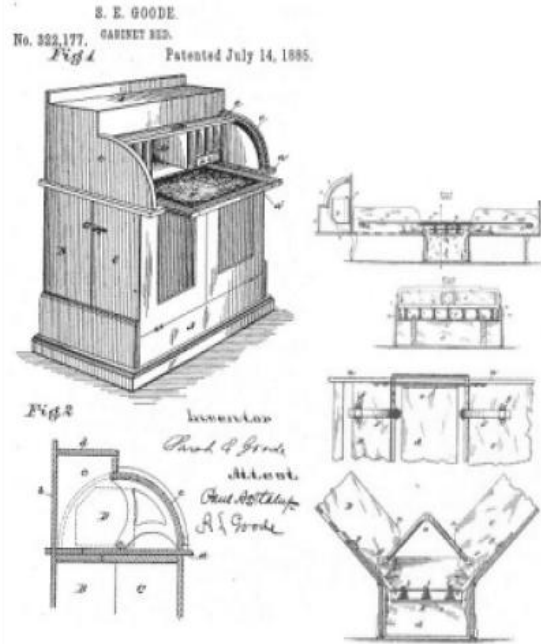
And I'm
Roxanne.
Join us for...



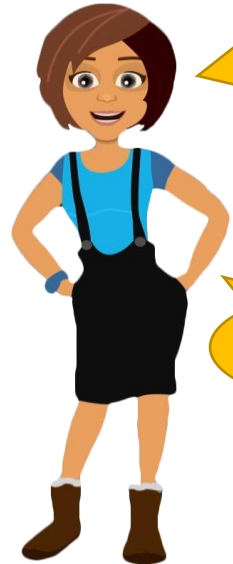


Did you know that Judy W. Reed, from Washington D.C., was awarded a patent in 1884 for her design of a dough kneader? It mixed dough more evenly while being kept covered and protected. She was the first Black woman to receive a patent.





Sarah Goode was born into slavery in 1850. After the Civil War, she moved to Chicago. Sarah became the owner of a furniture store. She invented a cabinet that unfolded into a bed and received her patent in 1885. Sarah was the second Black woman to receive a patent.



Harriet, why did Sarah invent a cabinet that turned into a bed?

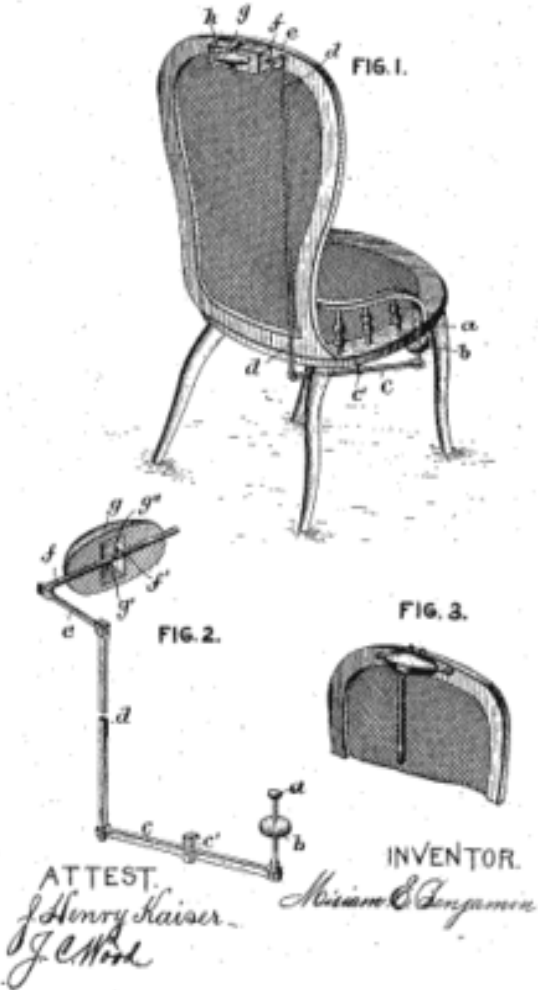
What a great idea!



People lived in small apartments and didn't have room for much furniture. Her invention helped them.



M. E. BENJAMIN.
GONG AND SIGNAL CHAIR FOR HOTELS, &c.
No. 386,289. Patented July 17, 1888.

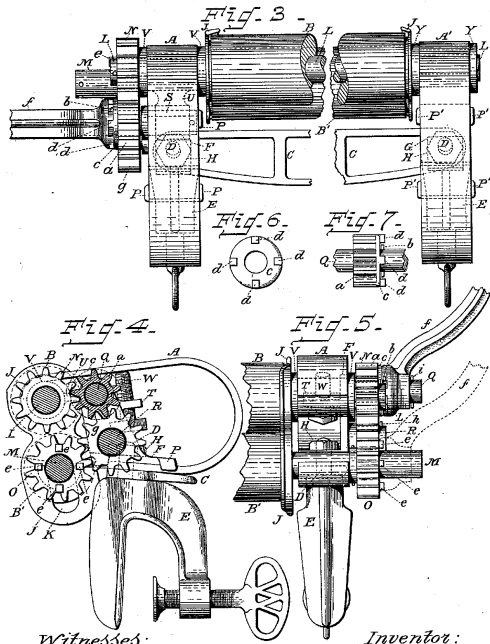


Miriam E. Benjamin was born free in 1861 and became a schoolteacher in Washington D.C. She invented the **Gong and Signal Chair** for hotels to signal a waiter when service was needed. A light would light up by pressing a button on the back of the chair to let the waiter know who needed service. She was the third Black woman to get a patent in **1888**.

Roxanne, today, we are still using this invention on airplanes to call a flight attendant.



(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 2.
C. WHEELER, Jr.
CLOTHES WRINGER.
No. 459,343. Patented Sept. 8, 1891.



Witnesses:
Frank C. Bathum,
Jesse James.
Inventor:
Cyrenus Wheeler.

In August 1888, Ellen Elgin invented a clothes wringer that allowed clothing to be washed and dried faster by feeding clothes through two rollers to wring out the clothing. Elgin sold her invention to Cyrenus Wheeler, Jr. because she felt it would have a better chance at success than if people knew the inventor was a Black woman.



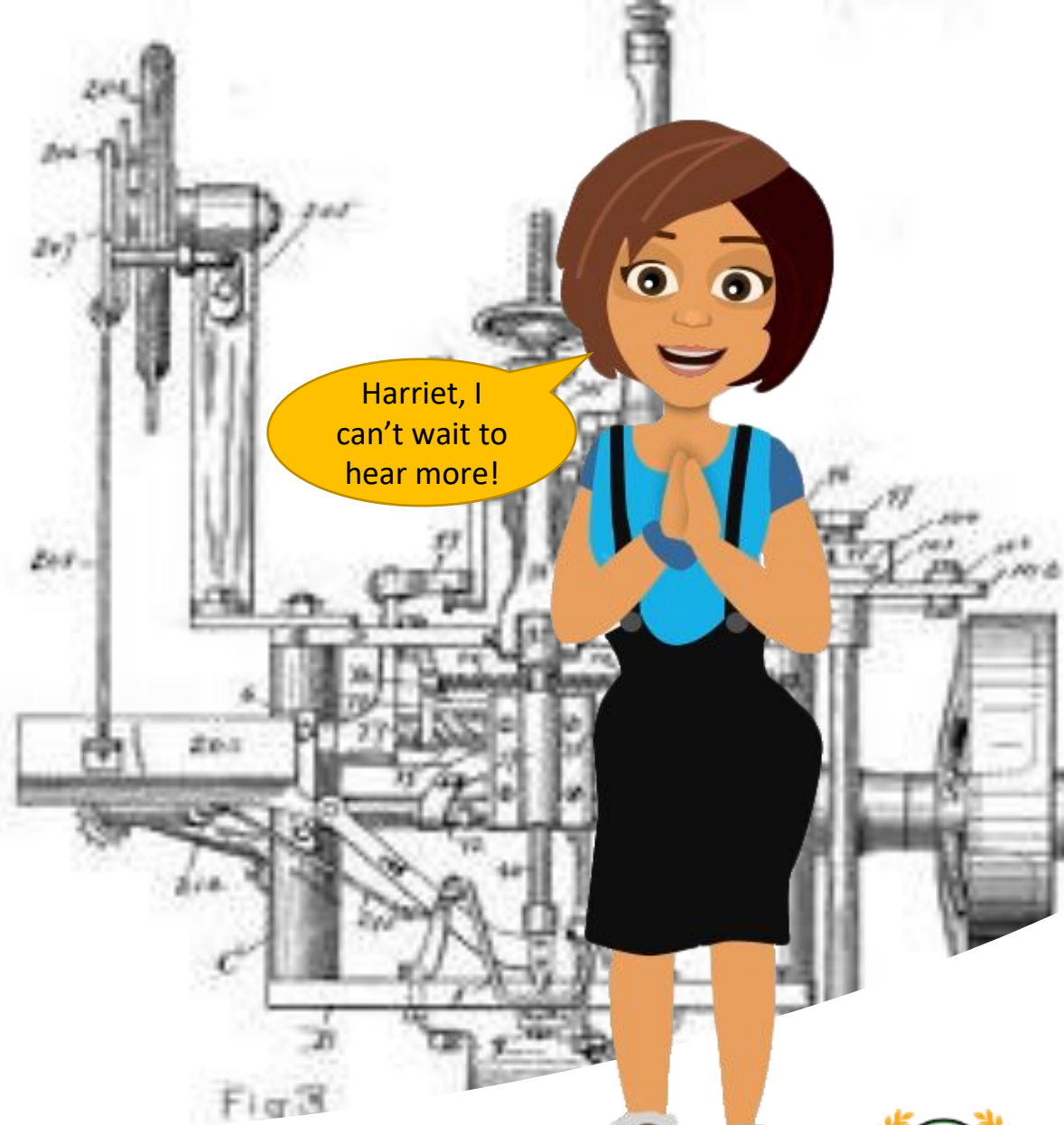
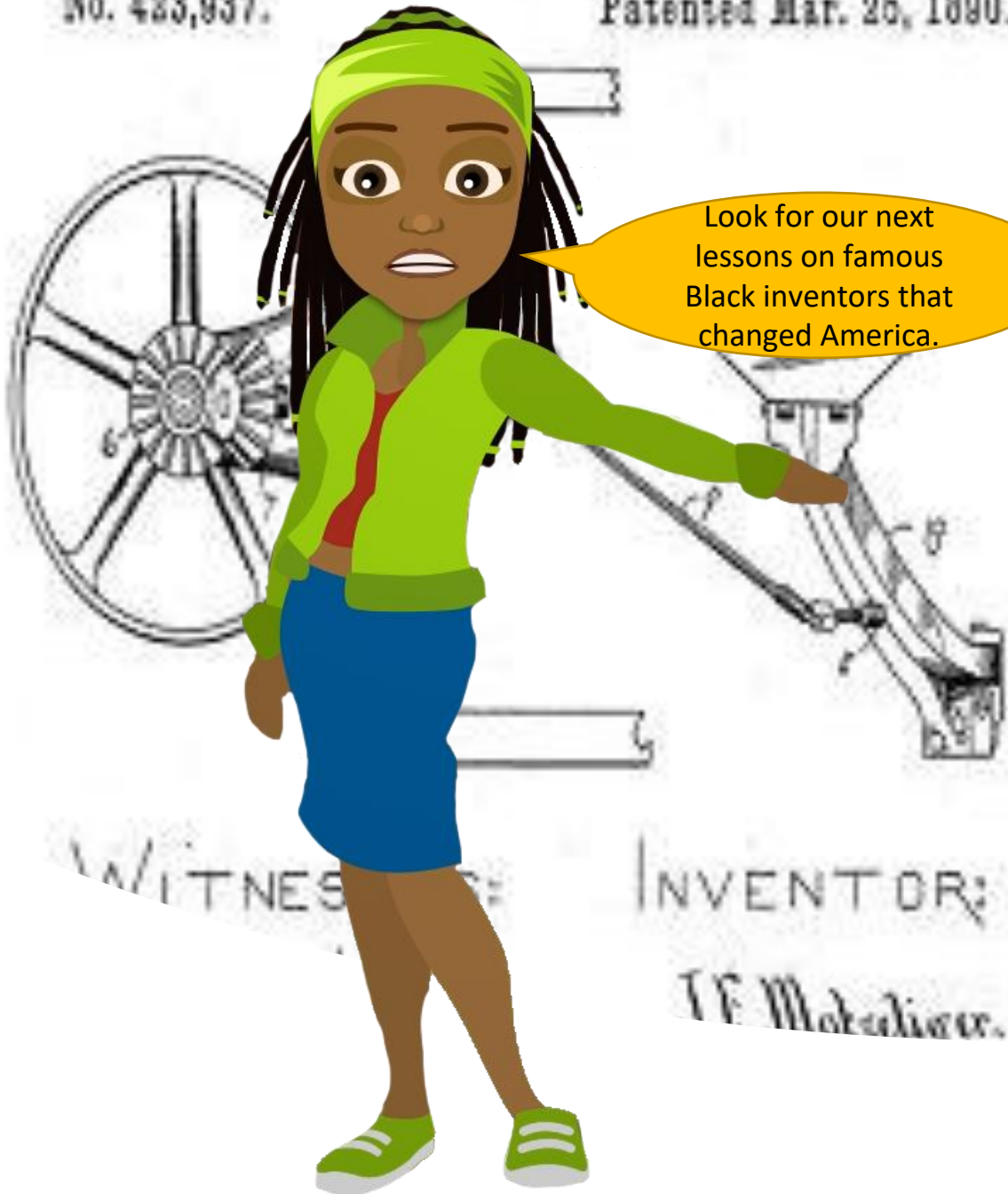
Harriet, why didn't Ellen know about all the other Black inventors that got patents?



If Ellen knew that history, maybe she wouldn't have sold her invention for \$18. It is so sad.



YACK SEPARATING AND DISTRIBUTING MECHANISM,
No. 423,937. Patented Mar. 26, 1890.





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Because inquiring minds want to know.





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